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Berkeley, CA 94707-1532

March 12, 2007

23307 U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets
400 7th Street, SW Plaza 401
Washington, DC 20590

Dear 23307 U.S. Department of Transportation:

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know that I am very concerned that my choices as an airline passenger may soon be undercut by the federal government.

Virgin America is an airline awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation that will be a new kind of airline - with brand-new planes, cutting edge in-flight technology, outstanding customer service and competitive air fares. On Dec. 27, 2006, DOT "tentatively" denied Virgin America's application, even though the FAA completed its safety review and found them safe to fly under their most stringent standards.

Virgin America has responded to DOT with changes to their company that address concerns about its ownership and control - changes that should remove any doubt that the airline is, and will remain, a U.S.-owned and controlled company that meets all U.S. citizenship requirements.

Unfortunately, Washington politics and opposition from legacy carriers just might get in the way of Virgin America's start up. At a time when so many major airlines in this country are in or just emerging from bankruptcy, and several have proposed mergers in the works, DOT should look to making competition better - not worse!

I hope the DOT will not tell Virgin America's U.S. investors to go home, letting the best capitalized startup airline in U.S. history simply slip away. I hope DOT will not say "Let them eat cake!" to air travelers like us who now are seeing fares go up, while quality, value and service go down.

Virgin America has already passed its FAA approval process - proving that it is safe and prepared to serve U.S. passengers. In a deregulated environment, nothing else should matter. Give them a chance to succeed or fail on their own.

Please tell DOT now, before they finalize their decision, that Virgin America deserves a chance, and consumers deserve more choice. It should be up to the marketplace, specifically those of us that fly, to decide whether Virgin America will fly.

Please ask DOT to keep its mandate to promote competition and certify Virgin America for the public good. Help me by telling DOT and President Bush it's time to let Virgin America fly!

Sincerely,

Daniel Leventhal
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source: 9225626

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